

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: POLADS CONSULTATIONS ON IOZP

REF: NATO 3910

1. USDEL MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS IN DISCUSSIONS IN POLADS MEETING JULY 29.

2. IN EARLY JUNE CHAIRMAN OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IOZP (SRI LANKA'S PERMREP AMERASINGHE) CIRCULATED A LETTER TO PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MAJOR MARITIME USERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE LETTER ASKED FOR THE VIEWS OF THESE STATES IN REGARD TO CONVENING A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE RESPONSE WAS TO COVER THE CONCEPT OF A CONFERENCE, THE IMPLICATIONS OF
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THE PROPOSALS SO FAR AS THE SECURITY AND OTHER INTERESTS

OF THE GREAT POWERS AND MAJOR MARITIME USERS WERE CONCERNED, THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OVER WHICH THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT OR AGREEMENT, AND THE BEST MEANS OF ADVANCING TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DECLARATION CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 2832 (XXVI) OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THAT LETTER THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION AT NEW YORK WAS INSTRUCTED TO REPLY ORALLY, DRAWING ON THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE US DELEGATION AT THE 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS OF THAT INSTRUCTION ARE QUOTED BELOW:

BEGIN QUOTE

A.

ALTHOUGH 1974 IOPZ RESOLUTION RELATIVELY MODERATE AND BALANCED AND AVOIDS SINGLING OUT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES IN AREA FOR CRITICISM, WE CANNOT ACCEPT MANY OF THE CONCEPTS UNDERLYING THE INITIATIVE AT PRESENT ANY MORE THAN WE COULD WHEN THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED IN 1971. DEL SHOULD THEREFORE ABSTAIN IN THE VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION.

B. SINCE US POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED, DEL MAY USE ITS DISCRETION IN DETERMINING WHETHER STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE IS NECESSARY. ASSUMING SOVIETS AND BRITISH WILL ALSO ABSTAIN, IF EITHER OR BOTH EXPLAIN VOTE, AND PARTICULARLY IF EITHER TAKES MORE FORTHCOMING LINE TOWARD IOPZ THAN PREVIOUSLY, REPETITION OF US POSITION FOR THE RECORD MIGHT BE USEFUL. STATEMENT, IF MADE, SHOULD RUN ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INITIATIVE DECLARING THE INDIAN OCEAN TO BE A 'ZONE OF PEACE' HAVE NOT CHANGED. WE CONTINUE TO SHARE THE AIM OF PROMOTING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE REGION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN SOUGHT BY THE CO-SPONSORS AND THE SUPPORTERS OF THE RESOLUTION. WE FURTHER AGREE THAT A COMPETITIVE EXPANSION OF MILITARY PRESENCES IN THE AREA WOULD NOT SERVE THIS AIM AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED. WE HAVE, NEVERTHELESS, ABSTAINED IN THE VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION, AS WE DID ON ITS PREDECESSORS BECAUSE WE DO NOT BELIEVE

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THAT THE APPROACH OF DECLARING A 'ZONE OF PEACE' CAN ADEQUATELY RESOLVE COMPLEX QUESTIONS INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT ARMS CONTROL AND LAW OF THE SEA CONSIDERATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE PREMISE UNDERLYING THIS APPROACH THAT A REGIONAL GROUP OF STATES CAN IMPOSE A SPECIAL LEGAL REGIME ON A CERTAIN PART OF THE HIGH SEAS. END QUOTE.

4. THE UK, FRANCE, FRG AND ITALY ALSO DECLINED TO
PARTICIPATE. THE USSR MADE NO RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST. INGERSOLL

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